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# Counselor Connection

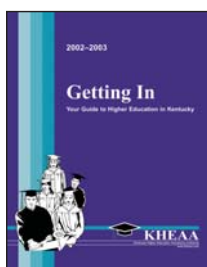


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(Middle School)

## Getting In

Included with this newsletter is a copy of *Getting In* to share with your 8th graders who are interested in exploring their higher education options.



This KHEAA publication, mailed to high school juniors at their homes and to guidance counselors for distribution to seniors, provides up-to-date information to counselors, parents, and students seeking details about higher education, including:

- How to prepare for higher education.
- High school graduation requirements.
- Entrance tests and test dates.
- Types of postsecondary schools.
- Transfers between community colleges and state universities.
- Online learning.
- Financial aid questions and answers.
- Tips for obtaining student aid.
- Avoiding scholarship scams.
- Browsing the Web.
- Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other financial aid applications.
- Major financial aid programs.
- Lenders that participate in providing student loans.
- Kentucky higher education institutions (including their mailing, e-mail, and Web site addresses; financial aid and admissions office telephone numbers; costs; enrollment; admissions criteria; special programs and services; and academic majors).

## Outreach Advisory Committee Formed

KHEAA recently formed an Outreach Advisory Committee to help in its efforts to continually improve our programs for students and families. The first meeting was held on October 4 in Frankfort and addressed several topics, including publications, outreach programs, media relations, "reaching out" to students, and a visit aboard our redesigned Higher Education Learning and Planning (HELP) Center.



Participants at this initial meeting discussed new initiatives to enhance KHEAA's efforts at reaching Kentucky students and families with a concentrated message that higher education is both valuable and accessible. As a result, a comprehensive "to do" list was created to ensure that the ideas generated received appropriate attention and follow-through action. KHEAA is redesigning its publications to make them more appealing to students, developing materials reaching sixth- and seventh-grade students, expanding its reach to adult/nontraditional students, researching a multimedia approach for reaching students and families, and increasing involvement with churches in African-American communities. To build on the success of this meeting, the committee plans to meet at least twice a year.

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## What's Inside!



**Included with this edition:**

- *Getting In*
- STEP Poster for Sixth- and Seventh-Graders
- STEP for Freshmen

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January 2003

Remember—many KHEAA publications, including *Getting In*, *Affording Higher Education*, *STEP* books, *Adults Returning to School*, and *Top Ten Student Financial Aid Tips*, are available online at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com)!

## New Poster Designed for Sixth- and Seventh-Grade Students

Based on a recommendation from KHEAA's newly formed Outreach Advisory Committee, new materials are being developed to reach students at a younger age with information about higher education opportunities, career exploration, and student financial aid. Included with this edition of the *Counselor Connection* is a new poster designed to encourage sixth- and seventh-grade students to explore the possibilities that higher education has to offer.

Please display this poster prominently in your school. If you need additional copies, contact Hilda Long at the address or number on page 1.

## First Senator Jeff Green Scholars Named

Among the Class of 2002 graduates earning Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) awards were 758 Senator Jeff Green Scholars. These students, who achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA for all four years of high school and at least a 28 ACT composite test score, are eligible for the maximum annual award of \$2,500. This is the first year students have been designated Senator Jeff Green Scholars in honor of the late state senator from Mayfield.

"It is always a great pleasure to notify deserving Kentucky students that they have earned KEES awards," said Governor Paul E. Patton, who sent a certificate of achievement to each Jeff Green Scholar.

*The Counselor Connection is published by KHEAA, a state government agency, to share information with school counselors regarding:*

- *The Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) as well as other scholarship, grant, work-study, savings, and loan programs for Kentuckians.*
- *Higher education planning materials and outreach services.*
- *Workshops, conferences, and special events.*
- *Reports and summaries on higher education issues related to preparation of students for postsecondary education.*

*Comments and suggestions about the Counselor Connection are welcomed and appreciated. Please send them to KHEAA via e-mail to [shopkins@kheaa.com](mailto:shopkins@kheaa.com).*

KHEAA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodations to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. Printed with state funds.

## New Look for KHEAA's HELP Center

PowerCreative, a Louisville marketing firm that has provided assistance to KHEAA and The Student Loan People<sup>SM</sup> on several projects, coordinated the exterior redesign and repainting of the Higher Education Learning and Planning (HELP) Center vehicle. The theme of the new mobile classroom is "The College Info Road Show," with a map of Kentucky in the background, an "On the Road to Success" banner across the front windshield, KHEAA and The Student Loan People Web sites on the back, and road signs displaying college financial aid programs and services posted on both sides. The new, very colorful, design has been turning heads on highways and interstates throughout the Commonwealth and is earning rave reviews from students. To schedule a visit for a school or community event in your area, call Mark Hoover at 1-800-928-8926 or e-mail [mhoover@kheaa.com](mailto:mhoover@kheaa.com).



To give your eighth-grade students a taste of what to expect from high school, a copy of KHEAA's *STEP for Freshmen* booklet is enclosed for distribution. This publication lets students explore career possibilities, outlines high school graduation requirements, encourages students to get involved in extracurricular activities, explains how the KEES program works, and introduces students to financial aid opportunities.